

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200871

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, RW, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA'S VIEWS ON AID AND PEACE
CORPS

REF: KIGALI 1277

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR DETAILED AND USEFUL REPORT CONCERNING PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA'S VIEWS ON PEACE CORPS AND AID. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO ANALYZE CONVERSATION OF THIS NATURE FROM WASHINGTON, WE ARRIVE AT SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS.
 2. HABYARIMANA HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A FRUITFUL VISIT TO THE PRC AND NORTH KOREA. HE WAS APPARENTLY IMPRESSED BY THE COMMITMENT OF THOSE NATIONS TO RWANDAN DEVELOPMENT.
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ADDITIONALLY, HE SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS OPENING NEW PROJECTS IN THE RWANDAN COUNTRYSIDE AMONG WHICH THERE WERE FEW, IF ANY, AMERICAN PROJECTS. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCED HIS FRAME-OF-MIND PRIOR TO YOUR DISCUSSION.

3. THRUST OF PRESIDENT'S VIEWS CONSISTS OF THE TRADITIONAL,

IF RATHER SOUR OPTIC, THAT THE WEST, AND THE U.S. IN

PARTICULAR, IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY ENGAGED IN RWANDAN DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO FATHOM RWANDAN THINKING ON THIS MATTER, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S APPROACH IS AS MUCH TACTICAL AS SUBSTANTIVE. LOOKING BACK AT THE RECORD WE NOTE THAT THIS RWANDAN TACTIC OF BELITTILING AMERICAN ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN KEY PART OF MANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THE FACT THAT WE ARE INCREASING RESOURCE TRANSFERS TO RWANDA MIGHT INDICATE TO THEM THAT THE TACTIC IS A SUCCESSFUL ONE AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE EMPLOYED. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ASIDE, WE NOTE THAT YOU ACHIEVED YOUR TWO MOST URGENT CONCERNS, THAT OF SECURING APPROVAL FOR THE GIRLS' TRAINING SCHOOL AT NYAGAHANGA AND ACCORD FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH THE PEACE CORPS FISH PROGRAM.

4. OUR INCLINATION IS THAT THE BEST RESPONSE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE TO PROCEED QUIETLY WITH THE FISH AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS AS PROJECTED AND NOT GO BACK TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY. IT SEEMS THAT A LOW PROFILE IS BEST FOR THE TIMEBEING.

5. PEACE CORPS IS NOT OVERREACTING TO REPORTS OF THE CONVERSATION. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE PCV'S WORKING WITH RWANDAN FARMERS IN FISH AND OTHER PROJECTS WILL APTLY
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DEMONSTRATE VALIDITY OF PROGRAM. NONETHELESS, OUR POSITION CONCERNING THE PEACE CORPS IS QUITE CLEAR AND THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF IT. WE WILL NOT PROCEED TO ASSIGN VOLUNTEERS TO JOBS OR PROJECTS IN THE ABSENCE OF CONTINUING GOR APPROVAL. PEACE CORPS IS SENDING ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS SEPTEL.

6. ONE ALTERNATIVE TO THE APPROACH OUTLINED ABOVE IS TO TRY TO GET A HIGH-LEVEL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA EXPLICITLY SETTING FORTH THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY AND STYLE OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE INCLUDING PC COMPONENT. IT WOULD TREAT FRANKLY OUR INABILITY TO RESPOND TO ALL REQUESTS IN A MANNER THAT RWANDA WOULD DEEM MOST DESIRABLE. SIMILARLY IT WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT PROJECT CONCEPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION IS A COMPLICATED PROCESS, WHICH TO BE SUCCESSFUL, REQUIRES THE FULL COOPERATION OF BOTH PARTNERS. MESSAGE WOULD ALSO SET FORTH AMERICAN INTERESTS IN RWANDA AND ASSURE PRESIDENT OF OUR CONTINUING POLITICAL SUPPORT. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT WOULD PREFER TO USE SUCH A MESSAGE ONLY RPT ONLY IF YOUR DIALOGUE WITH HABYARIMANA CONTINUES IN THE SAME ADVERSE VEIN IN THE IMMEDIATE

FUTURE. ALTERNATIVELY, WE MIGHT WAIT UNTIL SUITABLE
VISIT LATER IN THE FALL FOLLOWING YOUR RETURN FROM CON-
SULTATIONS IN OCTOBER. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON
SUCH AN APPROACH. CHRISTOPHER

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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